JASPER-YELLOWHEAD HISTORICAL SOCEITY, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

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. . . [1824, October] 11th was occupied in preparations for attacking this formidable Portage which is in between Latitude 52 & 53 North and longitude 118 west according to Mr D. Thompson's obser-vations.

The situation of Jaspers House is beautifully Wild & romantic, on the borders of the Athabasca River which here spreads itself out into a small Lake surrounded by Lofty Mountains . . . This is merely a temporary Summer post for the convenience of the Columbians in crossing...

Sent Thos McKay and six men ahead of us this morning across the Portage in order to build a Canoe as the two Craft laying there are not sufficient to take the whole of our party down the heavy rapids of the Columbia. Jacco Findlay and a band of followers (Freemen) were here watching the Shewhoppes in order that they might trade their Furs before they got to the Estab-lishment and thereby make a profit on the hunts of these poor Indians, but I gave them notice that that practise must be discontinued as we should not allow Freemen interfere with and impose on the Natives & I addressed a circular Letter to Messrs Clarke McIntosh Rowand and Laroque begging they would narrowly watch the conduct of Findlays band and if they did continue this nefarious Traffic . . . that no supplies of any description be given to them. These freemen are a pest in this country, having much influence over the Natives which they exert to our disadvantage by inciting them against us . . .

On the Morning of the 12th we sent the Horses ahead under the charge of Mr McMillan and the Dr and I followed in the Canoes to William Henrys old House as far as the River is Navigable about 50 Miles higher up where they were laid carefully past in order to be ready for use next Spring and on the Morning of the 14th we started in a body with a cavalcade of Twenty-one Horses . . .

Our Road was rugged and bad frequently covered with fallen Timber the country having been over run by Fire; it appears well stocked with Animals as